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CD NO.

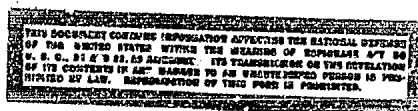
COUNTRY Albania  
SUBJECT Economic - Agriculture  
HOW PUBLISHED Daily newspaper  
WHERE PUBLISHED Tirana  
DATE PUBLISHED 18 Apr 1952  
LANGUAGE Albanian

DATE OF  
INFORMATION 1952

DATE DIST. 2 Sept 1952

NO. OF PAGES 2

SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.



THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE Zeri i Popullit.

AGRICULTURAL GAINS IN SARANDE RRETH

The cultivable area of Albania is being expanded by the drainage and improvement of waste lands. Agriculture in Sarande Rreth, in the past concerned chiefly with olive growing, is apparently being diversified.

The chief reason for the delay in spring planting in Sarande Rreth in 1951 was that the rreth executive committee of the people's assembly, especially its agricultural section, lacked knowledge of the problems involved. The preparatory work, which should have started in January or February, did not begin until April; consequently, maize could not be planted till July. A similar delay occurred in distributing seeds and chemical fertilizers, and in cleaning the irrigating canals. Most of the maize in Vurg village ripened late and was spoiled in threshing. Hence, it did not produce the desired yield. The kulaks took advantage of the situation to criticize the agricultural program.

The rreth agricultural organizations learned their lesson from the mistakes in 1951. They followed the directives of the Council of Ministers and the agricultural bureaus of the party organizations and began in time to distribute seeds, chemical fertilizers, tools and machinery, and agrarian credits. They made timely plans for courses in advanced agricultural methods such as the Soviet method of planting cotton and the check row method of planting maize.

Preparatory work on the ground was begun in January. Members of farm co-operatives cleaned existing irrigating canals and worked on digging new ditches until early March. The members of the Virjon agricultural cooperative, for example, dug 14,500 meters of new ditches, thus providing 20 additional dynyes of cultivable ground. The women in the village of Shales fulfilled their norm of opening ditches 200 percent per day. In addition, members of Shales co-operatives set out 500 fruit trees. Good collective work was done in other villages, such as Komispol, Gjashte, Falos, and Sinat.

- 1 -

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The MTR, although only recently installed, gave excellent service. The tractors had finished work on 600 hectares of land in Monispol and Vagalat by 31 March.

Saranda Earth as a whole has fulfilled the 1952 plan for industrial crops 160 percent compared to 17 percent for the same period in 1951. The agrarian credit given Saranda farmers by the state was four times larger than in 1951. This credit and the application of Soviet kolhoz methods enabled Saranda Earth to plant 2,230 more dynams of cotton than in 1951.

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- 2 -

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